

LAND REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE

More and more, we are understanding the importance of protecting our land for future generations. Cleaning up contaminated properties for reuse protects our health, spurs economic growth, and preserves forests, wetlands, and farmland.

The Environmental Protection Agency, is undertaking an important initiative to revitalize communities by restoring waste sites that have been cleaned up to productive economic and greenspace use. The Land Revitalization Initiative was launched to assist EPA staff in working with federal, state, tribal, public, and private stakeholders to facilitate property reuse. The following information describes how various EPA programs are incorporating land revitalization into their mission.

BROWNFIELDS

The Brownfields Program is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse brownfields. Under the Brownfields Revitalization Act, EPA's Brownfields program provides financial and technical assistance for brownfields revitalization including grants for environmental assessment, cleanup, and job training.

www.epa.gov/brownfields/



The creative use of plants and wetlands have successfully transformed a landfill into a wildlife enhancement area.

FAST FACTS

- The Superfund Program has already restored 60,000 acres of land to ecological and recreational use.
- EPA creates pilot programs as a way to test and showcase innovative approaches to administrative flexibility.
- Cleanups of underground storage tanks have been initiated at more than 380,000 sites, of which over 270,000 sites have been closed.
- Through its research labs and other activities, EPA participates in the development and application of innovative technologies for the characterization and treatment of contaminated waste sites, soils, and groundwater.

SUPERFUND

The Superfund Redevelopment Program is EPA's coordinated national effort to facilitate the return of the country's most hazardous waste sites to productive use by implementing cleanup remedies that are consistent with the reasonably anticipated future land use. While EPA's primary mission is to protect human health and the environment, Superfund cleanups have also been instrumental in returning contaminated sites to productive use.

www.epa.gov/superfund/action/redevelop/index.htm



SOLID WASTE

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) was enacted in 1976 to address the safe management and disposal of municipal and industrial waste. The RCRA Brownfields Prevention Initiative helps expedite cleanup at RCRA sites by focusing on reuse possibilities and their benefits, such as the creation of new jobs, businesses, and greenspace for communities.

www.epa.gov/swerosps/rcrabf/pilots

UNDERGROUND TANKS

EPA's Office of Underground Storage Tanks (OUST) promotes the cleanup and reuse of petroleum-contaminated properties such as old abandoned gas stations and industrial sites. As part of the USTfields Initiative, fifty pilots were awarded in 2000 and 2001 to assess, clean up, and ready for reuse high priority petroleum-impacted Brownfields. Since 2002, low-risk petroleum sites have been eligible for assessment and cleanup grant funding under the Brownfields program.

www.epa.gov/swerust1/



FEDERAL FACILITIES

The Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office's (FFRRO) overall mission is to facilitate faster, more effective, and less costly cleanup and reuse of federal facilities. By focusing on partnering and public involvement, FFRRO, and its counterpart offices in EPA regions, have made great strides in improving federal facilities cleanup.

www.epa.gov/swerffrr/

RESTORING URBAN RIVERS

The Urban Rivers Restoration Initiative is the result of a July 2002 memorandum of understanding between EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to address water quality issues, economic revitalization, and the public use and enjoyment of urban rivers. Eight urban rivers have been selected for pilots as part of the initiative to demonstrate the planning and implementation of urban river cleanup and restoration. The pilots will increase coordination and cooperation between EPA and the Corps with regards to remedial, water quality, and environmental restoration activities.

www.epa.gov/oswer/landrevitalization/urbanrivers/

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